



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Temperatures remained above average last week, and precipitation was minimal across the State, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association data, isolated areas in the north central portion of the State received moisture over 1 inch, while the rest of the State remained drier. The U.S. Drought Monitor published on August 31 showed a slight improvement in conditions in the San Luis Valley, but a decline along the southwestern border. Just over 15 percent of the State is experiencing abnormally dry conditions and 13 percent of the State was rated in moderate drought. One percent of the State is rated in severe drought, down from last week. According to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, much of the State experienced warmer than normal temperatures, with areas of eastern Colorado realizing temperatures more than 9 degrees above average. High temperatures and windy conditions continued to decrease soil moisture supplies in the northeastern part of the State. Isolated rain showers between cutting and baling in the northwestern portion of the State decreased the hay quality. Reports from the San Luis Valley noted barley harvest was progressing well, and the potato crop was doing well. Ranges were reported as dry, and grasses that haven’t been grazed are fully headed. Livestock were in mostly good condition, but losses were noted, specifically for sheep due to coyote predation.

The third cutting of alfalfa advanced among a primarily dry week, with 55 percent harvested, but progress still lagged last year and the 5-year average. Barley harvest progressed quickly last week, with 77 percent harvested, ahead of last year but behind the 5-year average. Blooming in the dry edible bean crop was almost complete, with 96 percent of the crop bloomed, behind last year at 100 percent and the 5-year average of 99 percent. Ten percent of the dry edible bean crop was cut by weeks end, behind the 5-year average. The corn crop matured quickly among hot, dry conditions last week, with 86 percent of the crop in the dough stage, even with the 5-year average and 42 percent of the crop in the dented stage, slight ahead of the 5-year average of 41 percent. Corn harvested for silage made minimal progress last week, with 20 percent of the crop harvested. Onion harvest continued in the northeastern portion of the State, progressing ahead of average, with 40 percent of the crop harvested. Potato harvest began in the San Luis Valley last week, with 5 percent of the acreage harvested. Stored feed supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 4 percent short, 94 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 70 percent average, and 29 percent light. Sheep death loss was 1 percent heavy, 92 percent average and 7 percent light.

CROP PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	55	39	58	60
Barley				
Harvested	77	62	58	81
Corn				
Doughed	86	78	73	86
Dented	42	27	39	41
Mature	3	2	1	4
Harvested for silage	20	18	18	20
Dry edible beans				
Blooming	96	92	100	99
Cut	10	--	8	17
Onions				
Harvested	40	35	19	20
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	5	NA	8	7
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	55	48	23	25
Sorghum				
Headed	95	90	99	95
Turning color	31	17	55	51
Mature	2	--	--	6
Winter wheat				
Planted	1	NA	11	9

NA – not available
(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION				
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.7	6.2	6.7	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	8	10	27	21
Short	32	27	45	34
Adequate	58	61	28	44
Surplus	2	2	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	4	9	29	22
Short	24	23	40	32
Adequate	70	66	31	45
Surplus	2	2	--	1

NA – not available
(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	5	2	3	6
Poor	9	6	10	10
Fair	23	20	18	20
Good	55	64	62	56
Excellent.....	8	8	7	8
Corn				
Very poor.....	2	3	23	9
Poor	6	10	24	13
Fair	22	17	29	24
Good	57	59	19	45
Excellent.....	13	11	5	9
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	2	2	--	2
Poor	12	16	5	14
Fair	40	31	10	30
Good	41	37	40	40
Excellent.....	5	14	45	14
Onions				
Very poor.....	--	--	3	3
Poor	--	--	6	6
Fair	43	37	25	20
Good	45	41	63	67
Excellent.....	12	22	3	4
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	7	1	15	15
Poor	8	1	20	19
Fair	21	25	22	25
Good	52	59	30	34
Excellent.....	12	14	13	7
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	1	--	3	2
Poor	10	6	6	10
Fair	21	19	20	22
Good	45	52	51	48
Excellent.....	23	23	20	18
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	--	1	4	6
Poor	5	7	10	11
Fair	12	12	43	31
Good	82	79	43	46
Excellent.....	1	1	--	6
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor	--	1	--	2
Fair	22	28	50	29
Good	60	54	50	57
Excellent.....	18	17	--	11
Sunflower				
Very poor.....	--	1	8	3
Poor	--	3	10	10
Fair	10	16	48	32
Good	77	68	31	50
Excellent.....	13	12	3	5
Livestock				
Very poor.....	1	1	12	3
Poor	1	1	9	5
Fair	5	4	6	13
Good	85	76	52	66
Excellent.....	8	18	21	13

NA – not available

(-) – zero